called upon to submit a scheme for amplifying the operations of his department. His proposals have been received and they are to the effect that, in the farms at Trivandrum and Quilon, the line of work should be changed from demonstration to that of experiment, that two more agricultural farms should be opened, one in the Padmanabhapuram division and one in the Kottayam division, also for the purpose of experiment, that two out of the four farms should have cattle farms attached to them, that more veterinary hospitals should be opened, one for each revenue division, and lastly that he should be given a suitably fitted laboratory for research work. Orders have not yet been passed on these proposals. They are engaging the consideration of His Highness' Government.

You are aware that the cocoanut palm disease has been, for several years past, prevalent in parts of North and Central Travancore and that it has already caused considerable loss to cocoanut cultivation. Early in the year under review, Dr. E. J. Butler, Imperial Mycologist, visited the affected area and investigated the disease. His report, embodying the results of his investigation, was republished in the Gazette. Agricultural sheets in the Vernacular were issued, explaining the nature of the disease and the precautionary measures to be adopted. With a view to prevent the spread of the disease to the neighbouring territories, a Notification was issued prohibiting the export of cocoanut seedlings and roots from this State. After Dr. Kunjan Pillai's appointment as Director, he followed up Dr. Butler's investigations and made certain proposals for combating the disease. These proposals have been adopted and a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been placed at Dr. Kunjan Pillai's disposal for conducting the experiments, recommended by him, in selected gardens affected by the disease. Mr. Narayanaswami Aiyar, the Superintendent of the Trivandrum Farm, is now on special duty for the purpose in North Travancore, and I take this opportunity, of the presence here of several land-holders from the affected taluks, to solicit their co-operation with our officers in the matter of these experiments.

15. General.—On the whole, I am glad to be able to say that there was substantial improvement in the work of the Land Revenue department during the year; and for this, credit is due to the Division Peishkars and Tahsildars generally. Much however yet remains to be done, and I trust that these officers will not relax their efforts till they make the revenue administration current in every branch. To strengthen the hands of the Division Peishkars in controlling their staff and also o reduce the volume of petty work coming into the Huzur Office, the Peishkars were given increased powers during the year, in regard to the appointment, transfer and punishment of and grant of leave to their subordinates, and also in administrative matters, such as the disposal of revenue cases, &c. The weak point in the revenue administration is the inefficiency of the subordinate staff. It is complained that the pay is generally inadequate, and probably in some cases the staff is excessive. The question of revising the subordinate revenue establishments engaged the consideration of His Highness' Government during the year. Final orders have however not yet been passed.

Legislation.

16. Four ordinary meetings and one special meeting of the Legislative Council were held during the year. No Regulation was finally passed, but several Bills were

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in different stages. The Public Canals and Ferries Bill was dealt with in Committee, and later on in the Council, during the year. It has been finally passed into law since the year closed. The Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Civil Courts was dealt with in Committee, and the Committee's report was also considered by the Council, during the year. The Bill awaits final passing. The Treasure Trove Bill, the Arms Bill and the Factories Bill were introduced into the Council and referred to Committees during the year. Leave to introduce was given in regard to several Bills during the year, of which the most important was the Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. This Bill has been introduced into the Council since the close of the year. The High Court Regulation Amendment Bill, which had been introduced into the Council in 1081, was withdrawn, as it was considered that the question of amending the constitution of the High Court should lie over till the constitution of the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court had been amended. The Registration Regulation Amendment Bill was also withdrawn during the year, as it was found that the amendments proposed were not exhaustive and it was considered expedient to withdraw the defective Bill, so that a more exhaustive one might be introduced later on.

It was urged at the last session that legislation should be undertaken for the purpose of making certain changes in the customary law governing Marumakkathayies and I then promised tha the whole question would be referred to a Committee for investigation and report. A Committee was appointed—with Mr. Justice Govinda Pillai as the President—the enquiry being restricted to the Samantha and Nair communities. The report of the Committee has been received and has been ordered to be published in the Gazette. Public opinion—of the communities affected—has been invited and the question would be taken up for consideration six months hence.

Police.

17. Revision of staff.—The scale of pay of the subordinate ranks of the force was revised during the year. There were, according to the old scale, seven classes of Inspectors, with pay ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100, three of Head Constables, from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20, and three of Constables, from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8. Under the revised scale, Inspectors are divided into five grades on Rs. 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150, and the Constables into two grades on Rs. 8 and 7. The horse allowance of the Inspectors was raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per mensem and local allowances were increased in certain cases. The number of Inspectors was reduced by one. The net result of the reorganisation was an increase of annual expenditure to the extent of Rs. 25,641.

18. Crimes generally.—The number of cases reported to the Police, that dealt with by them, and the results of their action practically remained the same as in the previous year. There was one incident however which requires special mention and that is the serious riot which occurred in the Trivandrum town on the 8th June last. A mob collected in front of the Palace and began rioting there, and later on, it proceeded to the Fort Police Station and set fire to it, the result being that a portion of the building was burnt down. As the case is now under trial in the Trivandrum Sessions' Court, I refrain from making any observations, except to say that steps are being taken to amend the Police Regula-

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